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Introduction

Welcome to the Nahimic user guide for Windows®. This document will introduce you to its main features.

Nahimic is designed to offer the best audio experience, thanks to the following features.

Audio effects for **analog playback devices**:

- Profiles
- Audio Effects including Bass Boost, Virtual Surround, Reverb, Frequency Leveler, Volume Boost and Voice Clarity
- On/Off button and Reset button.

Audio effects for **analog capture devices**:

- Audio Effects including Listen to your MIC (loopback feature), Voice Leveler, Noise Gate, Noise Reduction and Automatic calibration
- On/Off button

And **HD Audio Recorder** with:

- Automatic launch feature
- Pop-up display customization

Designing the Nahimic UI

Nahimic is designed to follow Windows® 8, 8.1 and 10 design guidelines as far as possible in order to provide a consistent and up-to-date user experience. Meanwhile, the buttons and sliders have been designed to a large scale for easy control with a mouse, trackpad or even tactile devices.

System requirements

Nahimic is optimized for Windows® 8.1 (32- and 64-bit).

Installation and update

Nahimic is included in the drivers of your MSI device. If you need to install it or update it, please use the drivers supplied with your MSI device or download them from MSI's official website.

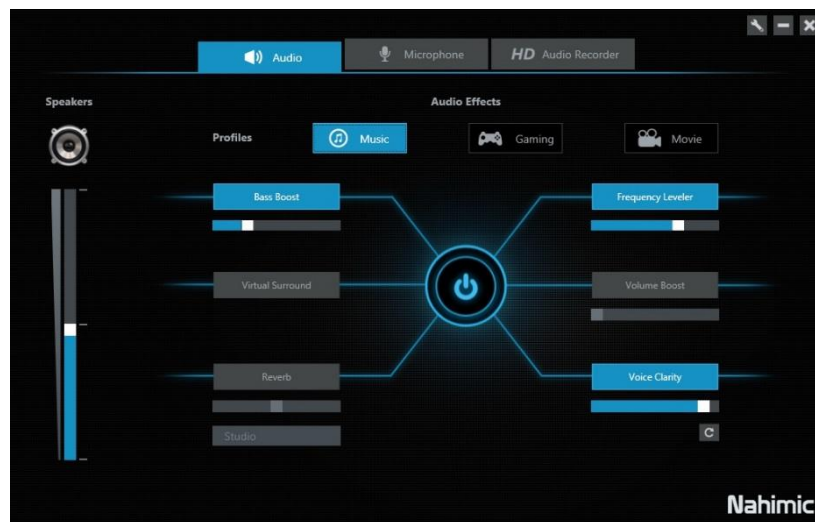
Navigation

Main window

Nahimic's UI is composed of a main window, 3 tabs (Audio, Microphone and HD Audio Recorder) and a Preferences window.

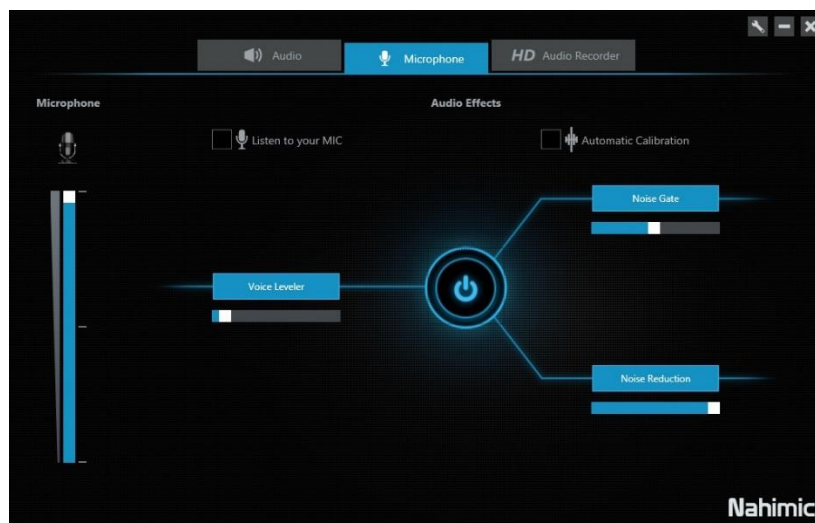
Audio

From this tab, you can access all of Nahimic's audio effects, audio profiles and settings.



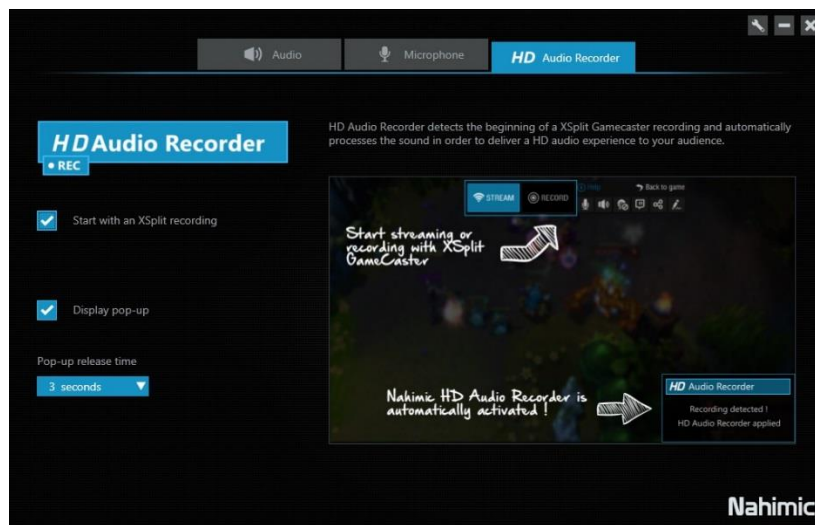
Microphone

From this tab, you can access all of Nahimic's microphone effects and settings.



HD Audio Recorder

From this tab, you can access all of Nahimic's HD Audio Recorder explanations and settings.



Preferences

In this window you will find the preferences for the UI: languages, version, etc.



Main window

Background process

Nahimic is automatically launched and minimized in the systray when your computer starts up.



At this point, Nahimic is running in the background - this is required to keep the effects and features enabled.

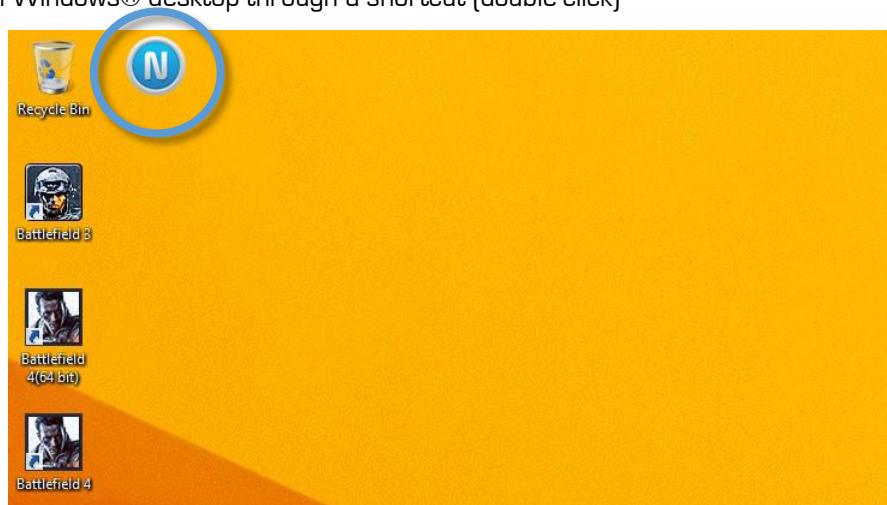
If the Nahimic main window is open and you close it, Nahimic will keep running in the background.

If you want to reopen Nahimic's UI, just proceed as explained in the following points.

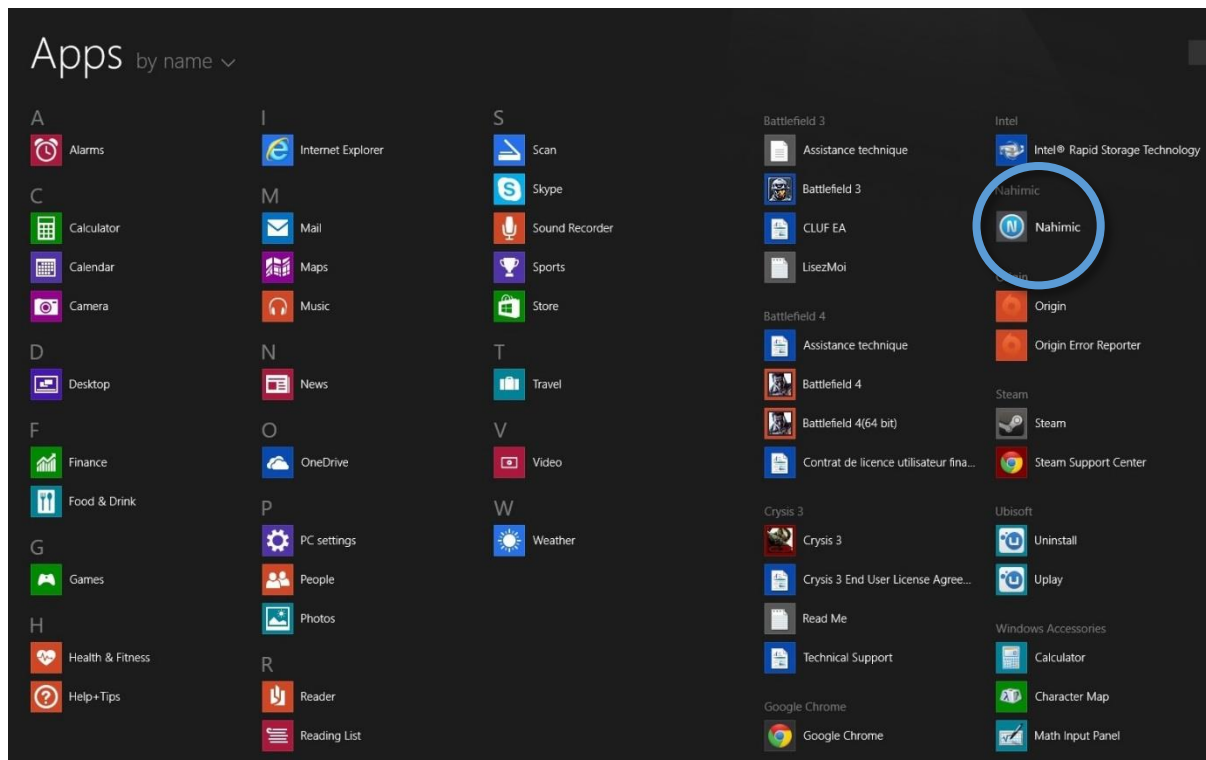
Launch

Nahimic's UI can be opened and displayed:

- from Windows® systray through the launcher icon [see previous picture – double-click, or right-click and then click on “Open”]
- from Windows® desktop through a shortcut (double-click)

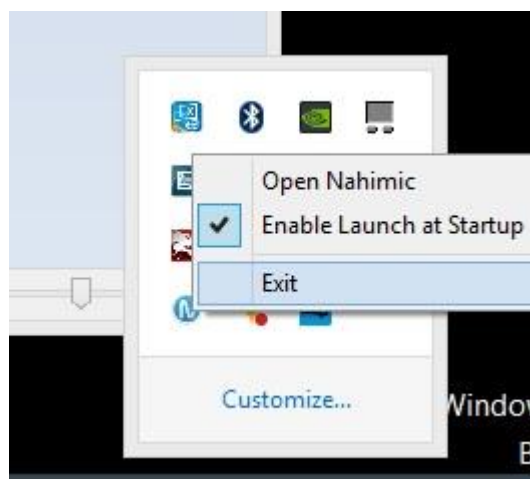


- from Windows® Metro UI through the application icon (simple click, or right-click and “Open new window”)

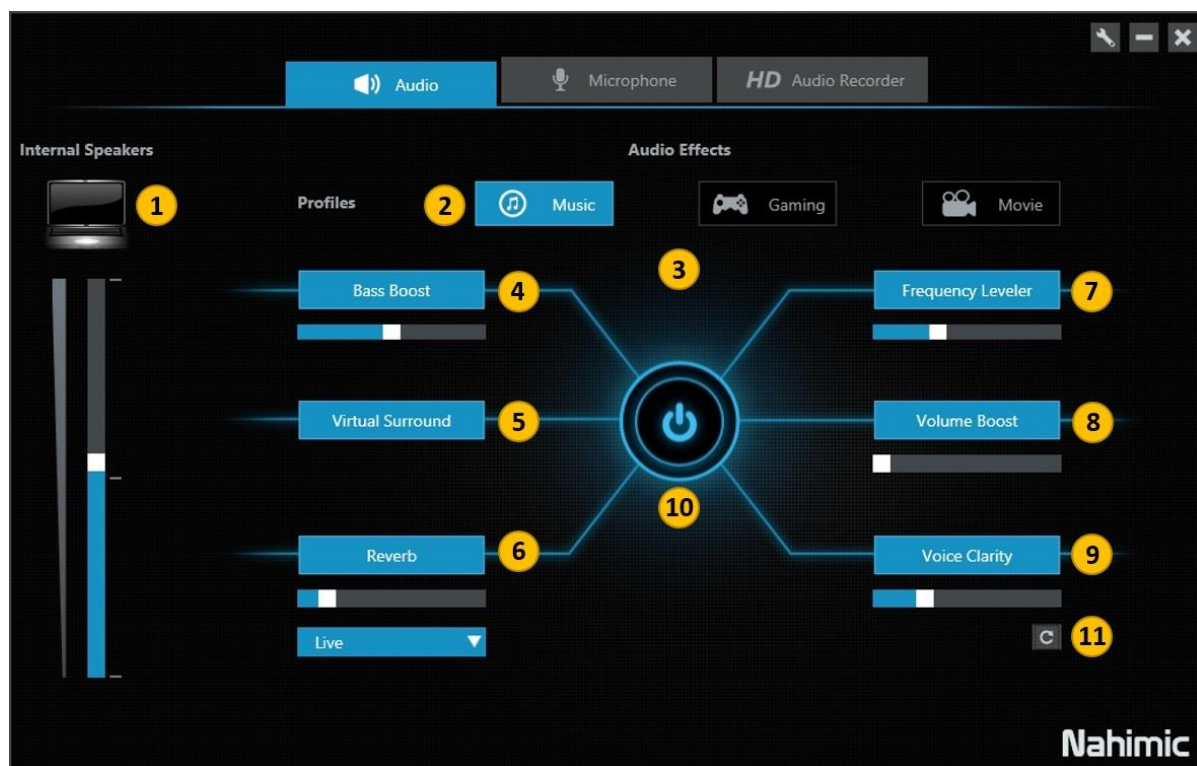


Shut down

To completely shut down Nahimic's process and its audio effects, just right-click the launcher icon in the systray and then left-click on the “Exit” option.



Audio



1 – Device display and volume

Displays the type of audio rendering device currently being used as output, as well as its current volume. This section can display the volume of the internal (built-in) speakers, headphones and external speakers.

2 – Profiles

Allows you to adjust the 6 audio effects to your current listening experience. The Music profile applies for any kind of mono or stereo music. The Gaming profile applies for any kind of stereo or multichannel video game. The Movie profile applies for any kind of stereo or multichannel video content.

3 – Audio Effects

Allows you to separately control any of the 6 audio effects: Bass Boost, Virtual Surround, Reverb, Frequency Leveler, Volume Boost and Voice Clarity.

4 – Bass Boost

Increases the energy in low frequencies up to +6 dB on a frequency range optimized for the audio rendering device in use.

5 – Virtual Surround

- **Gaming and Movies**

Virtualizes the multichannel audio stream from the game engine or the movie soundtrack and downmixes it in order to retrieve a multichannel listening experience over your stereo headphones or speakers.

- **Music**

Expands the stereo for a wider sound stage.

6 – Reverb

Increases the feeling of space by applying different types of reverbs corresponding to different room sizes. The reverb effect can be pushed up to +6 dB.

7 – Frequency Leveler

Levels the energy of sub-bass, bass, medium and treble to a given threshold in order to maintain a constant level of each type of frequency. The frequency leveler rate can be adjusted from 0 to 100%.

8 – Volume Boost

Controls extra gain up to +12 dB. This audio effect is designed to be used for abnormally low audio contents.

9 – Voice Clarity

Boosts the speech in movies, video games and incoming communication up to +6 dB.

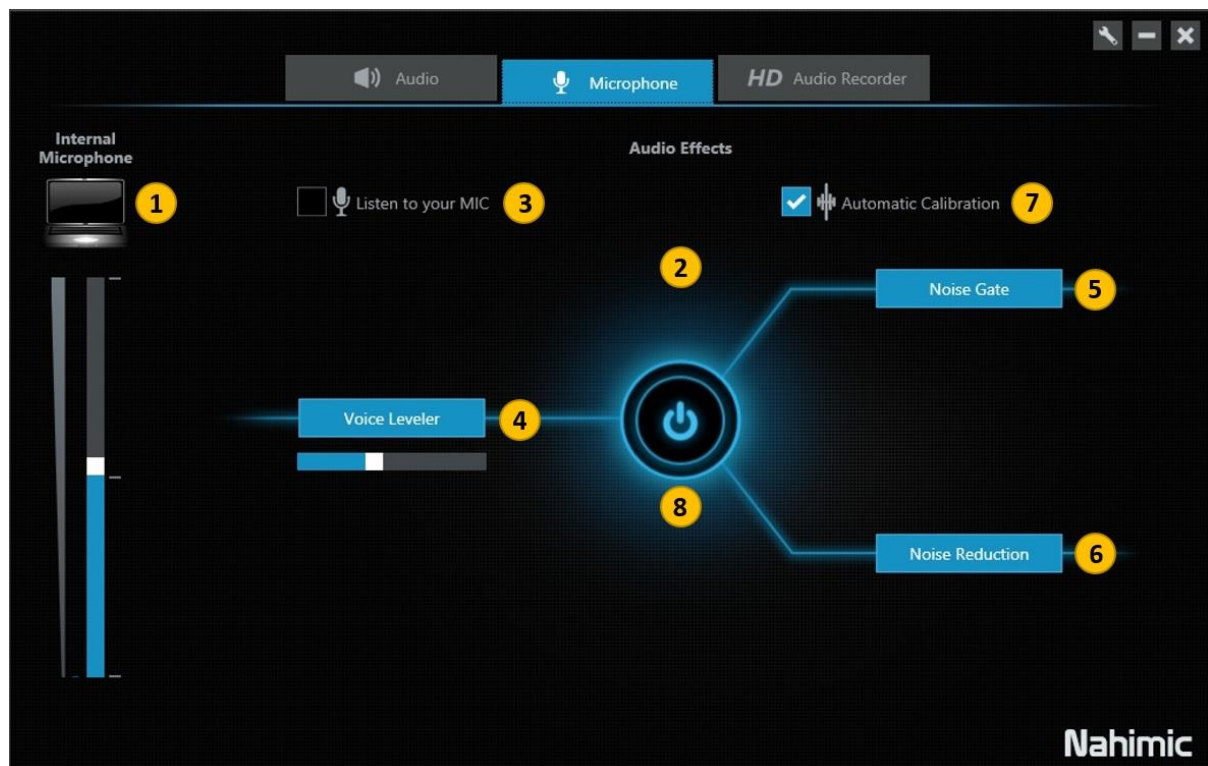
10 – On / Off button

Allows you to turn on and off all Nahimic's effects in one click.

11 – Reset button

Restores the current profile to its default values.

Microphone



1 – Device display and volume

Displays the type of audio recording device currently being used as output, as well as its current volume. This section can display the volume of the internal (built-in) microphone and external microphone.

2 – Audio Effects

Allows you to separately control any of the 3 audio effects: Voice Leveler, Noise Gate and Noise Reduction.

3 – Listen to your MIC

Turns the microphone loopback On/Off.

4 – Voice Leveler

Levels the volume of your voice in order to avoid any saturation and maintains a constant and clear communication. Voice Leveler can be adjusted with a 0 to 100% slider.

5 – Noise Gate

Removes the background and the digital noise between segments of speech during your voice communication. The Noise Gate can be adjusted to a threshold [dB]. The Noise Gate threshold needs to be adjusted in accordance with the type of microphone in use.

6 – Noise Reduction

The Noise Reduction removes the remaining sound that the Noise Gate has left on top of your words and sentences. The noise reduction level can be adjusted with a 0 to 100% slider.

7 – Automatic calibration

Dynamically adjusts the Noise Gate threshold and the Noise Reduction level by estimating the noise VS. signal rate.

8 – On / Off button

Allows you to turn on and off all Nahimic's effects in one click.

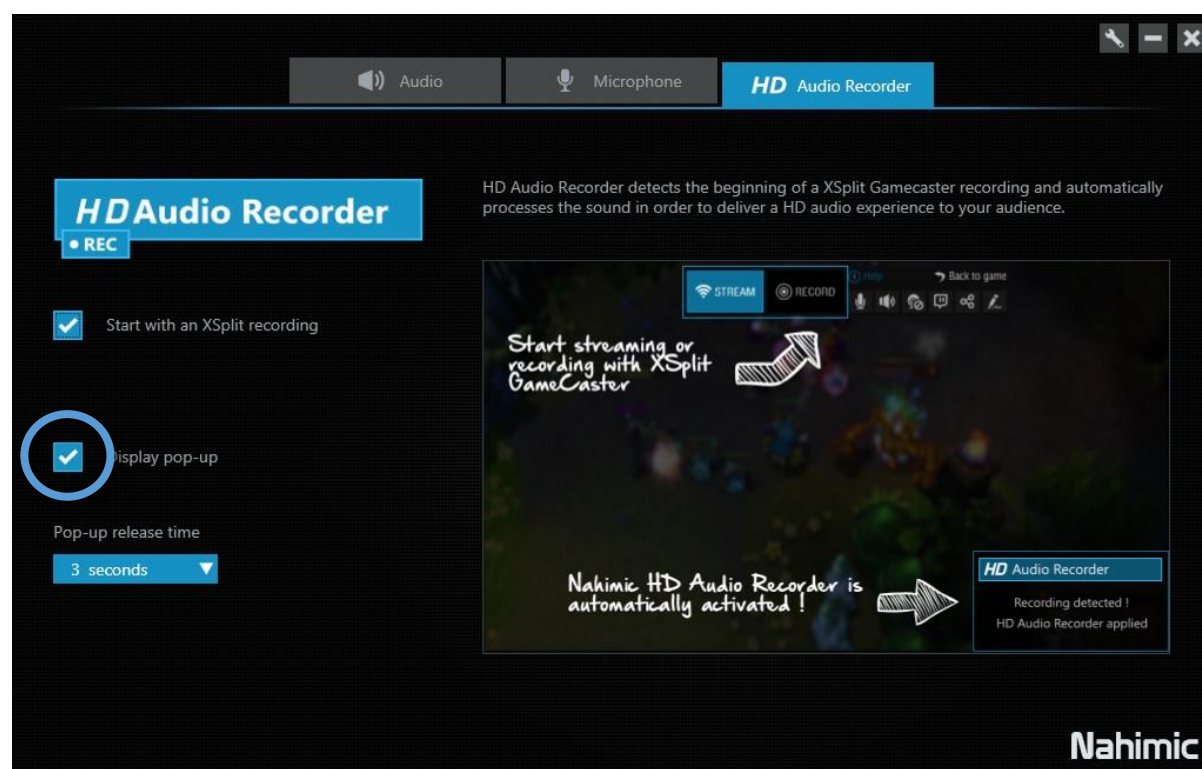
HD Audio Recorder

Supported softwares

XSplit Gamecaster is currently the only software supported by our HD Audio Recorder.

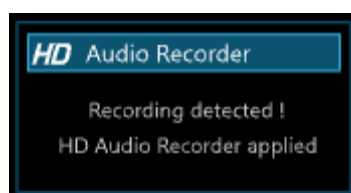
Automatic launch

The HD Audio Recorder is, by default, automatically launched when a XSplit Gamecaster recording session is detected. The launch of the HD Audio Recorder enables HD audio processing over an XSplit Gamecaster recording without any need for adjustments. You can disable the HD Audio Recorder by unchecking the “Start with an XSplit recording” option in the HD Audio Recorder tab.



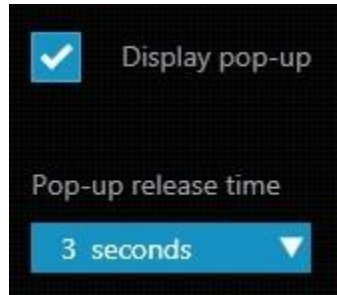
Pop-up display

When an XSplit Gamecaster recording session is detected and the HD Audio Recorder is launched, a pop-up message is displayed to indicate that the process is running.



You can change the pop-up's display settings:

- Release time of the pop-up
- Enable/Disable the display of the pop-up



Please note that disabling the display of the pop-up won't prevent the HD Audio Recorder from running.

Preferences

The language of Nahimic's UI is automatically selected, based on the OS language.

However, you can manually choose the language in the preferences window (English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Portuguese or Polish).

In this window, you will also find the driver version and other useful information.

Default settings

At first launch, Nahimic for MSI is set by default to the Music audio profile. Its factory settings are:

Profile name	Bass Boost	Virtual Surround	Reverb	Frequency Leveler	Volume Boost	Voice Clarity
Music	Enabled (+6 dB)	Enabled	Enabled - Live (13%)	Enabled (33%)	Enabled	Enabled (25%)

When closing and re-opening the UI, the default settings are the last settings saved.

FAQ

General

How do I turn off Nahimic?

To switch off Nahimic's effects, you can use the global On/Off buttons on the Audio and Microphone tabs. To learn more about this feature, please refer to the relevant parts of this user guide.

You can also turn off the Nahimic process entirely by right-clicking the launcher's icon in the systray, and clicking on "Close".

How do I turn on Nahimic?

To turn on Nahimic's effects, you can use the global On/Off buttons on the Audio and Microphone tabs. To learn more about this feature, please refer to the relevant parts of this user guide.

You can also display Nahimic's UI by double-clicking the launcher's icon in the systray, or its shortcuts on Windows® desktop and Metro interface.

Can I install Nahimic on other OS than Windows® 8.1?

Yes, but as Nahimic is optimized for Windows® 8.1 [32- and 64-bit], we can't guarantee you the best user experience on other OS.

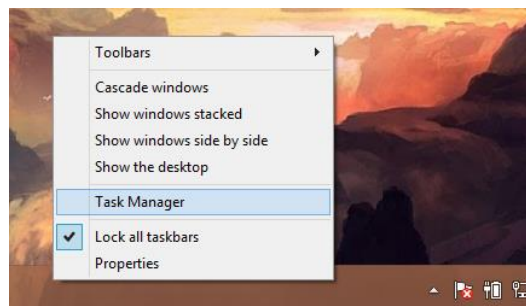
I uninstalled Nahimic. How do I install it again?

You can reinstall Nahimic thanks to the drivers supplied with your MSI device, or download them from MSI's official website

I don't want Nahimic to automatically launch when my computer starts up. How can I change this?

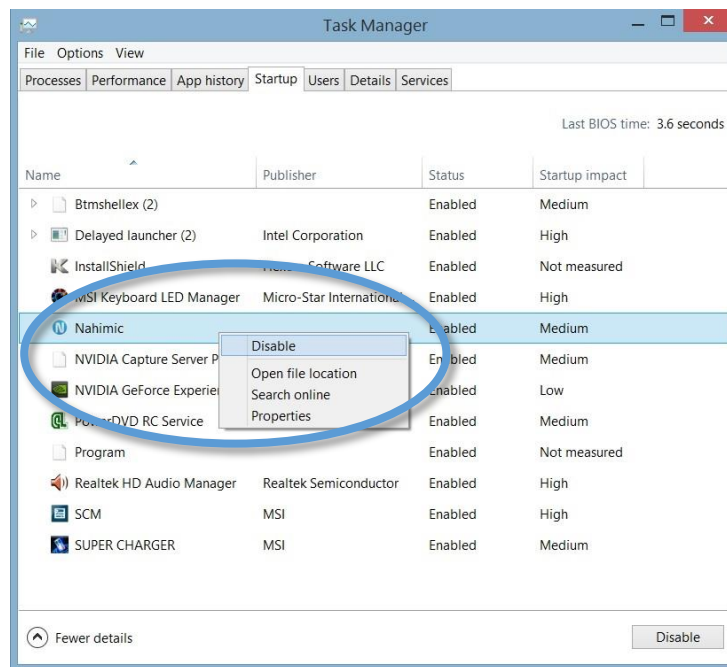
You can prevent any software from launching when your computer starts up by following these instructions:

- 1- Right click the Windows® taskbar and then click on "Task Manager",



- 2- The "Task Manager" window is now open. Click on the "Startup" tab,

3- Right-click on Nahimic, then click on “Disable”.



That's it. Nahimic won't launch at your next computer start.

If you change your mind, just repeat the same process, and during step 3, select “Enable”.

Audio effects

Can I activate Nahimic's audio effects with other audio effects (like Realtek's, for example)?

Concerning devices where Nahimic audio processing is available, it is not possible to have Nahimic's effects and effects from a different audio processing at the same time. For example, you can have either Realtek effects or Nahimic effects, but not both simultaneously.

How does Virtual Surround work?

The Virtual Surround effect is designed to reproduce a 3D audio experience from multichannel audio files to stereo devices. When playing a stereo audio file on a stereo device, our Virtual Surround will offer you a better sound spatialization and a better overall audio experience.

Some examples of use:

- Multichannel audio file on a stereo device: the Virtual Surround is fully adapted to this configuration. You will enjoy a multichannel audio experience in your stereo device (i. e. speakers or headphones).
- Stereo audio file on a stereo device: enhancement of the audio experience with a better spatialization
- Multichannel audio file on a multichannel device: Virtual Surround won't work on this configuration.
- Stereo audio file on a multichannel device: Virtual Surround won't work on this configuration.

I turned Voice Clarity “On”, but when I talk in my microphone, I can’t hear a difference. Why?

Voice Clarity is an audio effect (in the Audio tab). It’s designed to clarify the voices on the audio files you’re listening to. It’s not designed to clarify your own voice. If you want to clarify your own voice, please go to the Microphone tab and use the Voice Leveler, Noise Gate and Noise Reduction settings.

What is supposed to happen if I change the Music profile settings, then click on the Gaming profile, and finally come back to the Music profile?

As the changes are saved, you should find the Music profile settings as you left them.

I launched an audio file from a Windows® Metro application with Nahimic’s audio effects “On”, but audio effects seem to stay disabled. Why?

Nahimic doesn’t support Windows® Metro applications. If you launch an audio file from a Windows® Metro application, our audio and microphone effects won’t work. To enjoy the best audio experience with Nahimic, we recommend you use “conventional” audio software and avoid those designed for tactile/mobile supports.

I set all of Nahimic’s effects “Off” (using the On / Off button), but when I launch an XSplit Gamecaster recording, all effects are turned “On”. Why?

When you launch an XSplit Gamecaster recording with the Nahimic On/Off buttons set to “Off”, but the HD Audio Recorder set to “On” (“Start with an XSplit recording” option checked), then all of the On/Off buttons set to “Off” will be set to “On”. If you don’t want Nahimic’s effects to run during your XSplit recording session, just uncheck the “Start with an XSplit recording” option in the HD Audio Recorder tab and set the global On/Off button to “Off”.

I unchecked the “Start with an XSplit recording” option, but when I launch my XSplit recording session, Nahimic’s effects are still “On”. How can I disable them?

There are two ways to disable Nahimic audio effects during your recording session:

- By turning “Off” the global On/Off button (with the “Start with an XSplit recording” option unchecked).
- By closing Nahimic’s processing by right-clicking on its icon in the systray, then selecting “Close”.

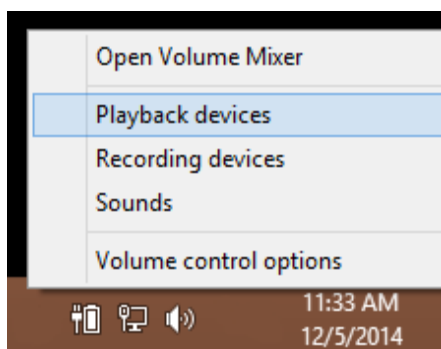
Which softwares does the HD Audio Recorder support?

XSplit Gamecaster is currently the only software supported by our HD Audio Recorder.

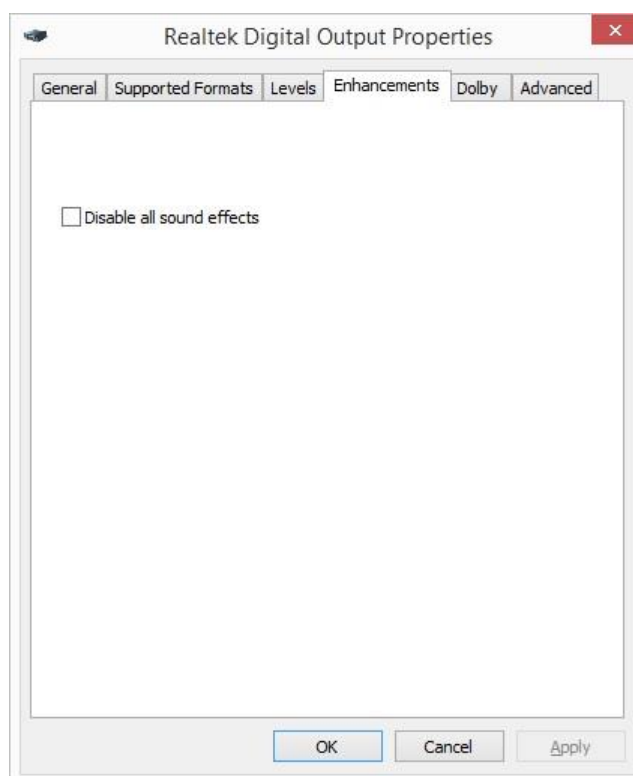
Everything seems well set and all buttons are “On” but Nahimic’s audio effects don’t seem to work, I can’t hear any difference!

It’s possible that your Windows® audio settings disabled all audio effects on your device. To turn them on, just follow these instructions:

- 1- On your Windows® taskbar, right-click on the volume icon.



- 2- Click on Playback devices or Recording devices, depending on the devices you are interested in. Playback devices are audio devices, like speakers or headphones. Recording devices are capture devices, like microphones. You may have to apply these instructions to both.
- 3- Right click on your current default device and click on Properties.
- 4- Click on the Enhancements tab and make sure the disabling audio effects option is unchecked.



Nahimic's audio effects should now run normally.

Device management

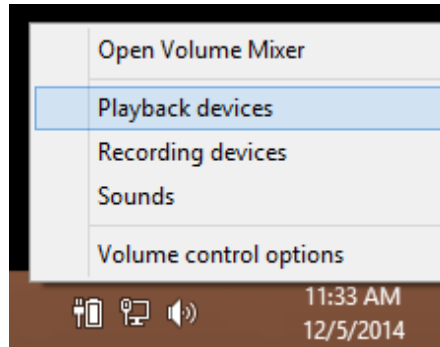
What is a default device?

It is the device [playback and/or recording] selected by default in the Windows® device manager on which you will hear or make sound.

What is Windows® device manager and how do I access it?

Windows® device manager is the control window which shows the complete list of playback and recording devices on your computer. This window also allows you to enable, disable or set as default your playback and recording devices. Here is the process to access it:

1. On your Windows® taskbar, right-click on the volume icon.

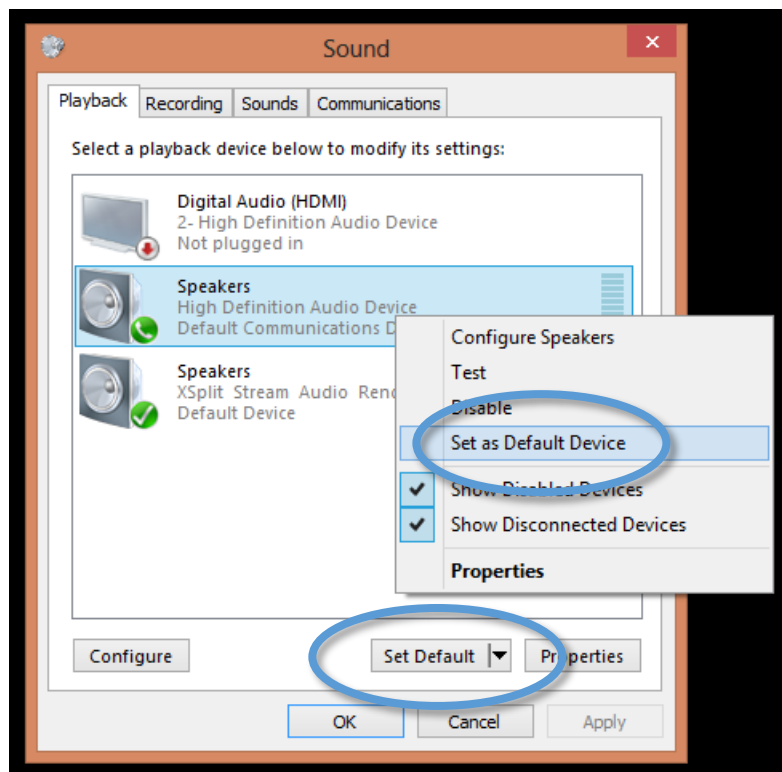


2. Click on Playback devices or Recording devices depending on the devices you are interested in. Playback devices are for audio devices, like speakers or headphones. Recording devices are capture devices, like microphones.

Here it is – you just accessed the Windows® device manager.

How do I set a device as default?

In the Windows® device manager, select the tab you are interested in (Playback or Recording). Then, right-click on the device you want to set as default, and click on “Set as Default Device”.



My device doesn't appear in the Windows® device manager. How do I make it appear?

First, make sure your device is properly plugged into your computer.

If it still doesn't appear, it may have been disabled and hidden in the Windows® device manager. To make it appear again in your device list, just right-click on the Windows® device manager window (in the Playback or Recording tab, depending on the device you are interested in) and then select "Show Disabled Device".

What is the Windows® device manager option "Show Disconnected Devices" for?

This option allows display of all the devices your hardware can support.

Nahimic's effects don't seem to work on the SPDIF and/or Line-in devices I plug into my Notebook and/or my AIO. Why?

SPDIF and Line-in devices are not supported by Nahimic on Notebooks or AIO. If you plug one in, Realtek will detect them, but Nahimic's UI will propose as default devices the internal speakers (for SPDIF) or the internal microphone (for Line-in) and Nahimic's effects won't be applied either to the SPDIF or the Line-in.

I plugged in a USB headset and Nahimic doesn't seem to support it. Why?

Nahimic only supports jack devices. USB headsets have their own drivers, audio processing and software which are completely independent of Nahimic.

I plugged in an external sound card and Nahimic doesn't seem to support it. Why?

Nahimic only supports jack devices. External sound cards have their own drivers, audio processing and software which are completely independent of Nahimic.

What will happen in Nahimic if I change the default devices in Realtek's UI?

Nahimic's UI will adapt to the new default device.